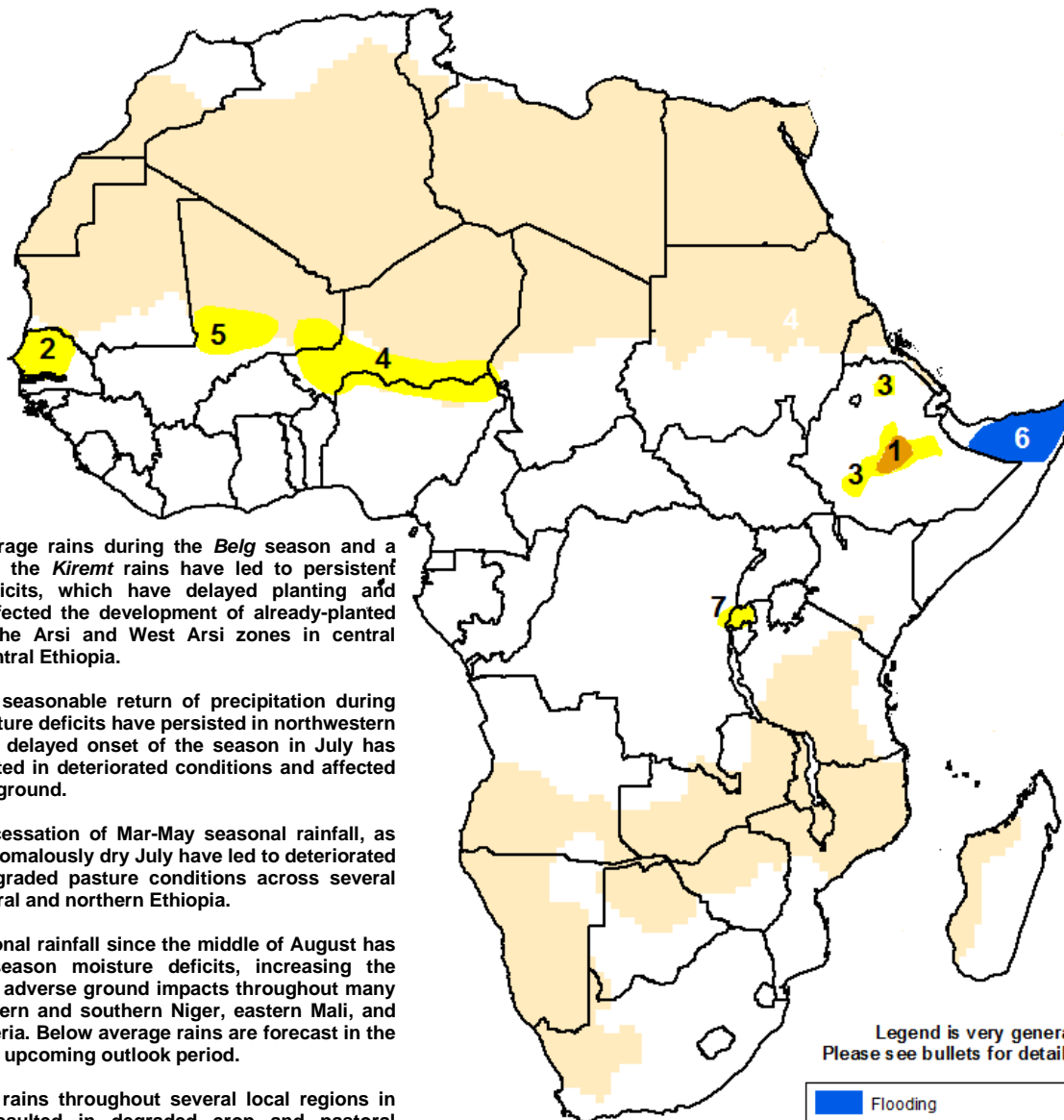




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook October 2 – October 8, 2014

- Favorable, late-season rains continued throughout many regions of West Africa during the last week.
- Significantly heavy rainfall forecast over northern Somalia and eastern Ethiopia.



1) Below-average rains during the *Belg* season and a late onset of the *Kiremt* rains have led to persistent moisture deficits, which have delayed planting and negatively affected the development of already-planted crops over the Arsi and West Arsi zones in central Oromia of central Ethiopia.

2) Despite a seasonable return of precipitation during August, moisture deficits have persisted in northwestern Senegal. The delayed onset of the season in July has already resulted in deteriorated conditions and affected crops on the ground.

3) An early cessation of Mar-May seasonal rainfall, as well as, an anomalously dry July have led to deteriorated crop and degraded pasture conditions across several zones in central and northern Ethiopia.

4) Poor seasonal rainfall since the middle of August has led to late-season moisture deficits, increasing the likelihood for adverse ground impacts throughout many parts of western and southern Niger, eastern Mali, and northern Nigeria. Below average rains are forecast in the region for the upcoming outlook period.

5) Poor July rains throughout several local regions in Mali have resulted in degraded crop and pastoral conditions. August and September rains have continued to help improve ground impacts.

6) Torrential amounts of precipitation forecast over arid northern Somalia are likely to trigger localized flooding in the region.

7) Since the beginning of September, poor rains have led to deteriorating crops and compromised planting activities throughout Rwanda.

Increased rains received over anomalously dry areas of Senegal, Niger.

In the last seven days, the northern limit of seasonal rain front (ITCZ/ITF) was still active across the southern Sahel region in West Africa, bringing well-distributed and favorable amounts of precipitation during the final week of September. The highest weekly accumulations were observed across costal Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia, with increased rainfall observed throughout many parts of northern Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Burkina Faso. Further east, lesser, but improved rains, were also received in western Niger and Nigeria (Figure 1). Along the Gulf of Guinea coastline, seasonal shower activity was present.

With the latest position of the ITF/ITCZ, locally moderate weekly accumulations (10-25mm) were mostly received in the eastern and western portions of Senegal, helping to mitigate abnormal dryness stemming from poor and erratic rains earlier in the season. In addition, a late surge of rains and moisture over western Niger is also expected to help offset developing moisture deficits due to suppressed rains since late August. Satellite estimate anomaly analysis depicts an increasing late-season rainfall trend southern Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Guinea (Figure 2). Despite some these recent improvements, both seasonal and short-term moisture deficits remain in many local areas, which still may adversely impact crop and pastoral conditions.

For the upcoming outlook period, the ITF is expected to continue its equatorward retreat, resulting in reduced rainfall throughout the Sahel in West Africa. However, another late-season moisture surge is forecast in central Mali and southeastern Mauritania, which is expected to bring another week favorable rainfall in the region. Average to above-average rains are also expected further south in the Gulf of Guinea region during early October.

Above-average rains exepcted in East Africa.

Since the beginning of September, rainfall throughout East Africa has been predimontly average to above-average with few local areas in Ethiopia experienceing below-average rains. Much of this late-season increase in rains and moisture is expected to benefit areas that have experienced poor and erratic rains earlier this summer.

For the upcoming outlook period, moderate to heavy rains are forecast for several regions in the East Africa. In western and central Ethiopia, the continuation of late season Kiremt rains are expected into early October. Further east, the onset of well-distributed moderal to locally heavy rains are also forecast, with the highest rainfall accumulations expected over northern Somalia. These rains could trigger localized flooding in the region. In the South, the onset of coastal shower activity is also exepced for several areas in southern Somalia, and southeastern Kenya (Figure 3).

**Note:** The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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